Obtaining of Quarterly report from RCCF, Bangalore on Forest Resources

1099. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government obtain quarterly report, from RCCF, Bangalore on the status of forests in each state in the South;

(b) if so, whether such reports also take into account the satellite imaging of forest resources;

(c) whether the trend of forest growth and exploitation in West Godavari measures up from latest report;

(d) whether Government are aware that tribals have come forward to protect Reserve Forest in Polavaram Range, West Godavari Distt. Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether Government propose to reward such tribal youth protecting the forests; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No reports are obtained from RCCF, Bangalore regarding status of forests in Southern States on quarterly basis. However, Forest Survey of India periodically monitors actual forest cover of the country on a two year cycle through satellite imageries.

(c) Comparison of State of Forest Reports 1991 and 1993 of Forest Survey of India shows that actual forest cover of the West Godavari district has increased from 843 Sq. km. to 846 Sq. km. during the said period.

(d) to (f) It is policy of the Government to encourage involvement of local people, particularly tribals in protection and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. Any move by a community in this direction will be welcomed by the Government.

Master Plan for Protection and Environment of Green Cover in Eastern Ghats in A. P.

1100. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Master Plan has been developed for protection and environment of green cover in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approached any foreign Government for financial assistance to implement a plan to increase forest cover and restrict depletion of forest resources in the Eastern Ghats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). In the Eastern Ghat region of Andhra Pradesh, the district of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam and Chittoor have been identified for the purposes of increasing the afforestation efforts. Afforestation and tree planting activities are undertaken in the concerned districts under the schemes of the State Forest Department and other concerned Departments as also under the schemes of Central Government like the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial Seeding Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

(c) and (d) For Andhra Pradesh, a World Bank assisted Forestry Project has been negotiated and work is expected to commence during the current financial year. The total project cost is Rs. 354 crores. The project would be implemented